increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains and cash crops through popularisation of improved crop production technology is being reviewed periodically.

(b) As a result of the implementation of the crop production Oriented Schemes and sustained efforts of the farmers, there is an overall improvement in the standard of crop cultivation as well as the level of productivity and production. The improvement in productivity and production in Maharashtra could be seen in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) A Comprehensive National Policy on agriculture is in the final stages of drafting and is likely to be finalised shortly in consultation with the states. The Policy will aim at the management and conservation of the natural resources base through sustainable management of land and water resources. It will seek to promote environmentally non-degrading, technically sound economically viable and socially acceptable improvement of natural resources to promote sustainable development of agriculture. The policy will focus particular attention on measures such as Land reforms to channelise the energies of small and marginal farmers.

The farmers will be the principal focus of attention in the Policy. both as the mainspring and the beneficiaries of agricultural development.

The policy will seek to introduce new and innovative approaches to management of agriculture by the Central and State Governments and promote use of the latest information technology for accelerating the growth process.

Statement

Production and Yield of Crops in Maharashtra

Crop	Produciton in lakh tonnes			Productivity in Kg. per hec.		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Rice	23.97	25.62	26.14	1558	1689	1769
Total Coarse Cereals	63.19	65.05	87.72	828	845	1071
Oilseeds	18.14	19.81	23.94	682	775	880
Sugarcane	442.60	466.56	428.04	85527	80442	80986
Cotton*	25.00	27.95	31.43	154	155	173

*Thousand bales of 170 Kg. each.

Projects for Develpoment of Fisheries

3241. SHRI GOVINDRAO MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of proposals/projects etc. launched by Government to develop fisheries both inland and marine in different States/UTs during the preceding five years;

(b) the details of allocations made to each State/UT during the said period; and

(c) the level of achievements in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The following important schemes for enhancing fin and shell fish production. Development of infrastructure and welfare of fishermen were implemented during the preceding five years:—

1. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture.

2. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries through Motorisation of Traditional Craft.

3. Reimbursement of Excise Duty on HSD Oil supplied to Mechanised Fishing Vessels below 20 m length.

4. Setting up of Artificial Reefs and Sea Farming

5. Providing Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports

6. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture

7. World Bank Assisted Shrimp & Fish Culture Project

8. Strengthening of Infrastructure for Inland Fish Marketing.

9. National Welfare of Fishermen.

(b) and (c) The details of schemes, allocations made to each State/UT and the achievement made there under are given in Annexure-I, II, III(a), III(b) and III(c). [*See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 86].

Damage Caused by Floods in Assam

3242. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Floods leave four lakh homeless in Assam," which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 23rd June, 1998;

(b) if so, the sector-wise details of damage, including life and property, till June, 1998;

(c) the steps taken for relief, rehabilitaiotn, restoration, disease control and sending Central assessment team;

(d) whether Government have released ex-gratia grant from PM's Relief Fund to affected families;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government of Assam has requested for release of Rs. 100 crores from National Fund for Calamity Relief; and

(g) if so, the action taken to grant the relief at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information received from the Government of Assam, 18 districts have been affected by heavy rains and floods in varying degrees during the first wave of floods which started from 10th June, 1998. As per preliminary assessment made by the State Government, these floods have taken a toll of 66 persons including 51 due to landslides and damaged area.

(c) The first and second instalments of Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 20.80 crore have already been released to the State for immediate relief work. The State Government has already been requested to send a Memorandum for further necessary action.

(d) and (e) The corpus of Prime Minister's National Relief Fund is constituted entirely with voluntary public contributions and not from any allocation out of the Consolidated Fund of India. Hence, no question on this fund are admissible.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The Centre's share of CRF has already been released to the State for immediate relief work. The State Government has been requested to send a detailed memorandum indicating details of extent of damage and relief assistance required so that their is considered for further action.